

PROPOSALS

Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the Honourable

House of Commons,

For the Advancing His Majesty's Revenue Six Hundred Thousand Pounds *per Annum*; and to Employ all our Poor People at Work.

AND whereas the Woollen Manufactory was the Staple Commodity of this Kingdom, and did set the Poor at Work, The Neighbouring Kingdoms (the *Irish* and *Scots*) have made it their great Design, and set up the said Manufactories, and are grown to that Perfection, that they do furnish themselves, and bring their Commodities to our Markets, and under-Sell us 25 or 30 *per Cent.* they having Wool at much cheaper Rates than is to be had in this Kingdom.

For Prevention whereof, it is Proposed, That all Goods Manufactured that are made of, or mixt with Wool, that shall be Imported or brought into this Kingdom, to pay 30 *per Cent.*

And whereas many Thousands of Poor People of this Kingdom do live by the Silk Manufactory, which being now wrought in *India*, and brought over hither, can be afforded *Cent. per Cent.* cheaper than they can be Made here.

It is Humbly Proposed,

That all wrought Silks, or other Manufactured goods, that shall be Imported, or brought into this Kingdom from the *East-Indies*, to pay *Cent. per Cent.* over and above the Duty they now pay: And that all Foreign Silk from other Parts Manufactured, Imported, or brought into *England*, to pay 60 pound *per Cent.*

And if the *East-India* Company, and the *New Subscribers*, do agree, so that they can enjoy the sole Trade to themselves, they may afford to pay *Cent. per Cent.* for the Manufactories they do Import from thence, and be above *Cent. per Cent.* gainers by the same: And that a draw-back be allowed them for what they shall Export.

And that all Merchants, Factors, Shop-keepers, and Pedlars, that shall have any *Indian* Manufactories, or Foreign Silks, upon a certain time, to bring or cause to be brought to the *Custom-House*, and pay the Duty, and there to be Sealed by Persons appointed by the Commissioners; and if after the time prefixt, any such Goods shall be found Unsealed in any persons Possession, shall forfeit the said Goods, and be subject to a Fine.

And whereas there are many other Manufactories prohibited by *Acts of Parliament* from being Imported, but are brought in by stealth, or connivance of the Officers, for their private Gain, and pay no Duty to the King;

It is Proposed,

That all Manufactories that are Prohibited, to pay to the King 60 *per Cent.* which will give great Encouragement to our Manufactories at home, and will greatly advantage the Merchandizing abroad.

And that all Leather Manufactured, Imported, or brought in, shall pay 30 *per Cent.*

That beyond the Memory of Man, the making of *Cotton-Cloth* was the Manufactory of this Kingdom, and many Thousands of Families got a good Livelyhood by their Industry and Labour; but it is now almost wholly lost, by the means that Foreigners do Import upon us, and furnish our Markets with Commodities from abroad, their Poor living only upon *Rice and Water*, and so are able to under-Sell our poor people considerably, they not having been bred up to such Diet; and for that it is not the Interest of all our Landed Men, that our Poor should be reduced to that condition, which if allowed, the Gentry of necessity must abate one half of their Rents for want of People to consume our Corn, and other Provisions.

It is therefore Proposed,

That all Manufactories made of *Cotton-Wool* that shall be Imported, shall pay *Cent. per Cent.* And for the better Encouraging the said Manufactories, that all *Cotton-Wool* that shall be Imported shall be Custom-free.

And for the Encouragement of the Manufacturing of *Silk*, it is Proposed, That all *Raw, Unthrown Silk* shall be Custom-free.

These *Proposals*, if approved of by *Parliament*, will imploy all our Poor at Work, and ease the great Taxes that are now paid to maintain the Poor.

And that the *Western Plantations* having been settled at the sole Cost and Charges of this Kingdom, and that no other Nation ought of Right to Trade to the said *Plantations*, it is proposed, That all *English Ships* shall take a *Certificate* from the *Commissioners of the Customs* of all Goods they shall take on Board them; and if any *Commodities* they shall have on Board them without such *Certificate*, they shall pay to the *Governour* of the *Plantation* 30 *per Cent.* to be remitted from Time to Time as His Majesty shall direct.

That all *Scotch Beasts or Sheep* that shall be brought into this Kingdom pay 40 *l. per Cent.*

That

That whereas the Parliament hath given to His Majesty several Duties upon Foreign Goods and Merchandizes, many of them being above the first Cost beyond Sea; yet many Merchants and Interlopers do make it their great Design to defraud the King of His Duties, that should support His Government; but not only so, but give other Merchants Encouragement to follow the same Practices, and so do Ingross the Trade to themselves. For no Merchant can sell his Goods but be a Loser, whereas Interlopers will be great Gainers.

For Prevention whereof for the future,

That all Masters of Ships or Vessels do, before the Commissioners of the Custom-House, give in upon Oath a true Copy of their Books of Entries or Invoice, all Goods they have on Board their Vessels, and to whom consign'd, together with their Marks and Numbers, and not deliver any of them without License from the Commissioners, upon a certain Penalty.

And if any Master of Ship or Vessel do permit or connive at any Goods to be put on Shoar, to defraud the King of his Duty, that it be made Felony within the Benefit of the Clergy; and all Persons that shall be Aiding or Assisting therein do incur the said Penalty, with other Penalties to be inflicted on their Goods and Chattels.

That in King James the First, the Customs of Tunnage and Poundage of all Goods Imported paid no more than 5*l.* per Cent. and that all Goods that were privately convey'd a-shoar was forfeited, one Moiety to the King, the other to the Informer.

But since the Duties of Goods Imported are more than the first Cost to the Merchants, and it is no Encouragement to the Informer to Sue for the same: As for Instance, Tobacco pays six times more than the prime Cost: As also French Wines and Brandy pay as much Duty as the prime Cost; and if the Merchant lose one half of his Goods, and get the other part free, and pay the King no Duty, his Gain will be far greater than the Merchant that pays his just Duties; neither will any Man Sue for the same, if the Merchant will give him more than the Law will give him: so the King is defrauded of His whole Duty.

2^{dly}, There is no Master of a Vessel but keep Books of Entries of all Goods and Merchandize, and if he be forced to make a true Entry upon Oath, and all false Entries to be made Penal, no Master will run the hazard of the Pilory to gratifie the Merchant.

3^{dly}, All Officers, when they make up their Accompts, must make good the Master's Entry, or else the Master's Entry will be a Check upon them; and so the King cannot be defrauded by His Officers.

4thly, No Master will dare to trust his Seamen to put his Goods on Shoar, for fear they should betray him; it being made Felony; and a settled Reward for the Informer.

5thly, Whereas the King gives 40 l. for Apprehending any High-Way-Man and Felon, if the same Encouragement be given to any Person that will cause the said Goods to be seized, and all Justices of the Peace and Constables be enjoined to Seize all Persons that shall be Aiding or Assisting in Stealing the King's Duty, and take good Security for their Appearing the next Sessions of Peace, or Assizes, and also from the Informer, to make their Charge against them, then no Merchant will run the hazard to be made a Felon, in Stealing the King's Duty.

And that all Oaths taken before the Commissioners of the Customs be made matter of Record, and Punishable accordingly.

All which is Humbly submitted to this Honourable House by a Lover of his KING and COUNTRY,

T. F.

PROPOSALS

Humbly Offer'd to this

Honourable House,

For Advancing His Majesty's Revenue 600000 l. per Annum, and to Employ all our Poor at Work.